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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 24, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of all nations, Lord of all people, thank You for a land where we can believe that our rights and freedom come from You. We praise You for Your gifts of life, liberty, and dreams, and for those who make daily sacrifices for freedom. Forgive us when we fail to live up to our high heritage, and infuse us with a grace that transforms us into instruments of Your purposes.

Empower our Senators to protect and guard the foundations of our liberty so that America will bless the world. When our lawmakers are weary, replenish their spirits with the inspiration of Your presence, and never forsake them in their hour of need. Bellow the flickering embers of their hearts until they are white-hot again with the fires of patriotism, vision, service, and hope.

As many people prepare for Yom Kippur, we thank You for Your atoning sacrifice that purchased our freedom.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Defense Department authorization measure and conclude debate on the Levin-Reed amendment. Debate time until 9:50 this morning is equally divided and controlled between Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN. The two leaders will control the time between 9:50 and 10 a.m., with myself controlling the last 5 minutes,

the vote occurring at 10 a.m. At 10 a.m., that will be the only vote to occur today.

I very much appreciate the cooperation of all Senators, Democrats and Republicans, that we worked out our problems on Monday so that we can vote on the very long-standing issue. We should have done it, but we didn't, but I am glad we are doing it now—the WRDA bill. It is bipartisan; Senators BOXER and INHOFE worked on it very hard. We are going to finish this Monday night. There will be work done on the Defense authorization bill on Monday. People can come and offer amendments, debate measures—whatever the managers feel is appropriate. Hopefully we can clear some amendments on that occasion.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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